(c) and (d) NRCP does not address the issues relating to quantity of water in rivers nor the use of river water. The focus of NRCP is to improve the water quality of the polluted river stretches by following an integrated approach of addressing components such as interception and diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front development, etc.

Air pollution in metros

*426. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has recently conducted a study about the increasing threat of air pollution in major metros;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to CSE there are many harmful pollutants still in the air that cause many, illnesses and even cancer; and

(d) what further steps Government are willing to take to reduce air pollution further in all metros and big and small cities to ensure the health of its citizens?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, as per the air quality monitoring undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board, while the levels of Sulphur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen in metros are found to be within the prescribed limits, the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in the residential areas of metros are exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

(d) Government have taken several steps for prevention and control of air pollution in metros and mega cities of the country. These include:

* Emission standards for industries and for vehicles have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
* A network of 295 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations covering 90 towns/cities distributed all over the country has been set up fc regular monitoring of air quality;

* Highly polluting industries have been identified and a road map has been evolved for environmental compliance in the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP);

* Control of vehicular pollution through promotion of clean fuels, introduction of stringent emission norms and fuel specifications;

* Regulation and control of noise pollution is carried out through various notifications such as for fire crackers, diesel generator sets and vehicles;

* Bharat Stage II norms for vehicles have been prescribed in metro cities;

* City specific plans for improvement of environment have been evolved which are at various stages of implementation;

* Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution; and

* Promotional schemes for environmental education and awareness have been launched.

Non-availability of water at railway stations

†*427. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that most of the taps at railway stations have gone dry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The general availability of water at the railway stations on Indian Railways is satisfactory.

At all stations, water is supplied from either Railways' own sources or from outside sources like municipality, etc. Requirement *vis-a-vis* availability of water at various stations is reviewed every year ahead of the summer season and additional new works sanctioned for improvement/ augmentation of water supply at stations. A large number of works, varying

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.